

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for detecting a protein having a disulfide bond, comprising:  
protecting by chemically modifying a free SH group of a protein in a sample to be tested;  
cleaving a disulfide bond of the free SH group-protected protein to expose SH groups; and  
detecting the exposed SH groups.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the exposed SH groups are detected by  
reacting the exposed SH groups with an SH group-labeling substance, and detecting the  
labeled SH groups.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the protein in a sample to be tested is  
separated by two-dimensional electrophoresis before detection of the labeled SH groups.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein chemical modification  
is carried out by alkylation with iodoacetamide and the SH group-labeling substance is  
monobromobimane.
5. (Original) A method for detecting an allergen protein, comprising: protecting by  
chemically modifying a free SH group of a protein in a sample to be tested; cleaving a  
disulfide bond of the free SH group-protected protein to expose SH groups; and detecting the  
exposed SH groups.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the exposed SH groups are detected by reacting the exposed SH groups with an SH group-labeling substance, and detecting the labeled SH groups.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the protein in a sample to be tested is separated by two-dimensional electrophoresis before detection of the labeled SH groups.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein chemical modification is carried out by alkylation with iodoacetamide and the SH group-labeling substance is monobromobimane.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 ~~any one of claims 5 to 8~~, wherein the sample to be tested is a protein extract from seeds of gramineous plants, pollens, mites, or house dust.

10. (Original) A kit for detecting a protein having a disulfide bond or an allergen protein, containing an SH group-protecting agent and an SH group-detecting substance.

11. (Original) A kit for detecting a protein having a disulfide bond or an allergen protein, containing iodoacetamide and monobromobimane.

12. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 10 ~~or 11~~, further containing a reducing agent.

13. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein chemical modification is carried out by alkylation with iodoacetamide and the SH group-labeling substance is monobromobimane.

14. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the sample to be tested is a protein extract from seeds of gramineous plants, pollens, mites, or house dust.

15. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein chemical modification is carried out by alkylation with iodoacetamide and the SH group-labeling substance is monobromobimane.

16. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the sample to be tested is a protein extract from seeds of gramineous plants, pollens, mites, or house dust.

17. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the sample to be tested is a protein extract from seeds of gramineous plants, pollens, mites, or house dust.

18. (New) The kit of claim 11, further containing a reducing agent.